



GOD

We believe that there is one and only one living, true, sovereign, and all-glorious God. His name is the LORD. He is an infinite, intelligent Spirit, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe these are the same divine essence and are equal in every divine perfection and are therefore worthy of all possible love, honor, obedience, and glory, and that they have distinct but harmonious roles in the great work of redemption. (Gen 1:1, 26; Exod 34:6-7; Neh 9:6; Ps 115:3, 145:3; Isa 40:9-31; Jonah 4:2; Mt 28:19; Jn 1:1, 3; 4:24; Rom 1:19, 20; Eph 4:5, 6; 1 Tim 1:17).

GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, unchangeable, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, love, justice, goodness, and truth. We believe that He is the Maker, Sustainer, and Ruler over all things, that He concerns Himself mercifully and righteously in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin, death, and hell all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Mt 23:9; Lk 10:21, 22; Jn 3:16; 6:27; Acts 2:23-24; Rom 1:7; 11:33-36; 2 Cor 1:3, 13:14; Eph 1:3-10; I Tim 1:1, 2; 2:5; 2 Tim 3:15-16; I Pet 1:3; Rev 1:6)

GOD THE SON

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, having freely taken on a fully human nature while remaining fully God. We believe in His virgin birth, His miracles, His authoritative teachings, His sinless life, and perfect obedience to God. We believe that He made a full atonement for our sins by His substitutionary death on the cross, satisfying God's just anger against us. We believe in His bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, and perpetual intercession for His people. We believe in His personal, visible, bodily, and imminent return to earth in order to establish His Kingdom. Uniting in His wonderful Person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, we believe He is the only Mediator between God and man, and is in every way qualified to be the suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior God promised to His people. (Mt 1:18-25, 20:28; Lk 1:26-38; Jn 1:1, 8:46, 20:28, 30, 31; Acts 1:11, 3:13-26; Rom 3:21-26, 5:6-8, 6:9, 10, 9:5; I Cor 1:30; II Cor 5:21; Eph 1:4; Phil 2:5-11; I Tim 2:5, 6; 3:16; Heb 1:1-3, 7:25, 9:28; I Pet 2:21-24; Rev 1:5-20, 19:11-16, 22:12, 16, 20)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit sent into the world by God to glorify the Son of God, and that without His effectual work no one would come to faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that He applies the saving work of Jesus to believers and distributes spiritual gifts to every believer according to His sovereign good pleasure for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. We believe He indwells everyone who has faith in Christ, and leads them in progressively overcoming sin and becoming more like Jesus Christ in thought, deed, and love for God. We believe that He seals the believer for the Day of final redemption and that, along the way, He brings the truth, grace, comfort, and commission of Christ to fruitful effect in the church. (Gen 1:2; Num 11:29; Ezek 36:25-27, 37:14; Lk 1:41, 2:25, 4:1, 10:21-22, 11:13, 24:49; Jn 14:16, 17, 26, 15:26, 27, 16:8-14; Acts 2:1-33; Rom 8:9, 14; I Cor 3:16, 6:19, 12:3-13; 2 Cor 13:14; Gal 5:22-26; 1 Thes 1:4; Titus 3:5)

THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books in the Old and New Testaments, was written by people who were divinely inspired, and that it is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction. God is its Author, salvation is its purpose, and truth, without any mixture of error, is its content. Scripture also reveals the principles by which God will judge us. Therefore, it is now, and will be to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard for evaluating all human conduct, creeds, and opinions. Rightly understood, all Scripture testifies to Christ, Who is Himself the focus of divine revelation. (Num 23:19; Ps 12:6; Prov 30:5; Mt 22:29, 43-44; 24:35; Mk 13:31; Jn 8:31, 32; 14:26; 16:13-14; 17:17; 20:31; Acts 20:32; 1 Cor 2:13; 14:37; 2 Tim 3:15-4:2; Titus 1:2; Heb 6:18; 2 Pet 1:20, 21; 3:16)

CREATION AND HUMANITY

We believe that, in the beginning, it pleased our God to create the universe and everything in it, whether visible or invisible. We believe God did this to display the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness. We believe that upon creating all else, God created Man in His own image, male and female, an historical Adam and Eve. He created them equal in dignity and worth, and complementary in role, with reasonable and immortal souls, unstained by sin and fit to live together under God's sovereign Word in happy obedience and holy communion with their Creator. By virtue of this true beginning and God's perfect design in it, we further believe that gender and marriage, the covenant union of one man and one woman for life, are gifts of God according to His perfect knowledge of what is best for us, the joy of His church, the broader flourishing of the human race, and the glory of Christ. (Gen 1-2; Gen 1:1-3, 26-27; 2:7, 15-24; Rom 1:20, 5:12-14; Col 1:15-17; Acts 17:24-28; Mt 19:4-6; Eph 5:22-33; Col 3:18-4:1)

THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that God created the human race in holiness under His law and for His glory. We believe that the first man, Adam, appointed by God as head of all, then voluntarily sinned and fell short of God's glory by transgressing the command of God. He fell from that happy and holy state, receiving a just sentence of physical, spiritual, and eternal separation from God. Consequently, we believe that all human beings are born with a sinful nature entirely opposed to God, and that the inability of fallen humanity to fulfill what God's law requires arises completely from their love of sin. Therefore, they are under God's just condemnation to a sentence of eternal ruin, without defense or excuse. (Gen 1:27, 31, 2:16-17, 3:6-24, 6:5, 12; Deut 4:15-19; Ps 14:1, 51:5; Eccl 7:29; Jer 13:23, 17:9; Ezek 18:19-20; Isa 53:6; Mt 20:15; Mk 7:20-23; Lk 11:13; Jn 8:34, 44; Acts 17:26-29; Rom 1:18, 20, 32, 2:1-16, 3:9-19, 5:12-19, 8:7; Eph 2:1-3; Gal 3:2, 10; 2 Tim 3:13)

CONCERNING THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel, and that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a heartfelt, contrite, and obedient faith. We believe that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but their own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel, which rejection involves them in an aggravated condemnation. (Prov 1:24; Isa 55:1; Mt 11:20, 23:37; Mk 1:15; Lk 10:27; Jn 3:19, 5:40; Acts 13:46; Rom 1:15-17, 9:32, 16:25-26; 2 Thess 1:8; Rev 22:17)

GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

We believe that God, from eternity, decrees or permits all that comes to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events, yet so as not in any way to be the author or approver of sin, nor to destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures. We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God according to which He graciously regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies some sinners; that it includes all the means necessary to achieve God's saving purpose; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, which is infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable. We believe election completely rules out boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, and trust in God. It encourages the greatest possible exercise of human responsibility, and is confirmed by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel. Election is the foundation of Christian assurance, and confirming our election deserves our greatest diligence. (Exod 33:18-19; Prov 16:33; Isa 42:16; 46:9-11; Jer 31:3; Mt 20:15, 16; Lk 10:21-22, 18:7; Jn 6:37-40, 10:16, 15:16; Acts 1:24, 13:48, 15:14; Rom 3:27, 4:16, 8:28-30, 9:23-24, 11:5-6, 28-29, 32-36; 1 Cor 1:26-31, 3:5-7, 9:22, 15:10; Eph 1:3-14, 11; Phil 3:12; Col 1:17, 3:12; 2 Tim 1:8-9, 2:10; 1 Thes 1:4-10, 2:12-13; 2 Thes 2:13-14; Heb 1:3, 6:11; Js 1:13-15, 17-18; 1 Pet 1:1-2, 2:9, 5:10; 2 Pet 1:10-11; 1 John 4:19)

REGENERATION

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again. It is an act of God's sovereign grace, as well as a mysterious and peculiar work of the Holy Spirit Who, in connection with the divine truth of the Gospel, gives life to those dead in trespasses and sins, renewing their whole nature, and enlightening their minds to spiritually and savingly understand the Word of Christ, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel. The proper evidence of regeneration appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life. (Deut 30:6; Ezek 36:26; Mt 3:8-10, 7:20; Jn 1:13, 3:3, 6-8; Rom 2:28-29, 5:5, 8:9; 1 Cor 1:30, 3:14; 2 Cor 5:17; Gal 5:16-23; Eph 2:1-10, 3:14-21, 4:20-24, 5:9; Phil 2:13; Col 3:9-11; Js 1:16-18; 1 Pet 1:22-25; 1 Jn 4:7, 5:1, 4, 18; Rev 14:3, 21:27)

REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel and are received by way of repentance and faith. We believe that repentance and faith are then the immediate duty of all people, as well as inseparable graces, produced in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God, who convinces us of our guilt, danger, helplessness, and the way of salvation by Christ. We thereby turn from our sin to God with genuine sorrow, confession, and a petition for mercy, heartily receiving Jesus as Lord, Savior, and Treasure, and relying on Him as the only and all-sufficient Savior. We believe that the act of repentance and faith is accompanied by all other saving graces, and that it leads to a life of increasing holiness. (Ps 2:6, 51:1-19; Mk 1:15; Lk 15:18-21, 18:13; Jn 16:8; Acts 2:37-38, 3:22-23, 11:18, 16:30-31; Rom 3:21-26; 10:9-11; 1 Cor 10:12-13; 2 Cor 7:11; Eph 2:8; 2 Tim 1:12, 3:15; Heb 1:8, 4:14, 7:25; Js 4:7-10; 1 John 5:1)

JUSTIFICATION

We believe that justification is the great gospel blessing that Christ secures to those who believe in Him. It is a legal act in which God, as the just Judge, declares sinners not guilty but instead righteous. Justification includes the pardon of sin, righteous standing before God and his people, and the promise of eternal life. It is not given because of any works of righteousness we have done but only through faith in the Redeemer's blood. By virtue of this faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us by God. Justification immediately brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity. (Gen 15:6; Isa 53:11-12; Jer 23:5-6; Zech 13:1; Mt 6:33, 9:6; Lk 18:9-14; Jn 1:16; Acts 10:43, 13:39; Rom 3:21-26, 4:4-5, 23-25, 5:1-11, 17, 19, 6:23; 1 Cor 1:30-31; 2 Cor 5:21; Eph 3:8; Phil 3:7-9; 1 Tim 4:8; Titus 3:5-7; 1 Pet 3:7; 1 John 2:12, 25)

SANCTIFICATION

We believe sanctification is the process by which we are made partakers of God's holiness, according to His purpose. Sanctification is a progressive work. It begins in regeneration and continues in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, and by God's appointed means, especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, prayer, and the oversight and fellowship of the visible church. (Exod 19:6; Lev 19:2; Prov 4:18; Mt 26:41; Lk 9:23, 11:35; Jn 3:6; Rom 8:5; 2 Cor 3:18, 7:1, 13:5, 10; Eph 1:4, 13-14, 4:11-12, 30, 6:18; Phil 1:9-11, 2:12-13, 3:12-16; 1 Thess 4:3, 5:23; Heb 6:1; 1 Pet 2:2; 2 Pet 1:5-8, 3:18; 1 John 2:29)

PERSERVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

We believe all genuine believers will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly endure to the end. Their persevering love and obedience to Christ and attachment to His people are the primary marks distinguishing them from inauthentic disciples. Though believers may fall through neglect and temptation into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the Church and temporal judgments on themselves, they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. (2 Kgs 6:16; Job 17:9; Ps 91:11-12, 121:3; Jer 32:40; Mt 6:30-33, 13:20-21; Lk 22:32; Jn 6:66-69, 8:31, 10:28-30, 13:18, 16:33; Rom 8:28; Phil 1:6, 2:13; Heb 1:14, 13:5; 1 John 2:19, 27-28, 3:9, 4:4, 5:18; Jude 24:25)

CONCERNING A GOSPEL CHURCH

We believe in one holy, universal Church, the body and bride of Christ, made up of all who trust Jesus as Savior, Lord, and supreme Treasure of their lives. We believe that God calls us to unite with other baptized believers in local churches to help each other to value Christ above all, to praise Him together, to grow in our love and knowledge of Him, to observe the ordinances of Christ, to stir each other up to good works, and to magnify the glory of God's grace in Jesus Christ by proclaiming Him to all peoples for their everlasting joy in God. We believe that the Lord Jesus is the Head of the Church, and to each true local church He has given necessary authority for administering the order, discipline, and worship which He has appointed by His Word. We believe that the regular officers of a church are Elders or Pastors, and Deacons. (Mt 18:15-20, 28:20; Acts 2:41-47, 5:11, 8:1, 11:21-23, 14:23, 15:22; Jn 14:15, 15:12; Rom 16:17-20; 1 Cor 1:1-3, 4:17, 5:6, 12-13, 11:2, 23-24, 14:12, 23; 2 Cor 2:17, 8:5; Gal 6:2; Eph 4:7; Phil 1:1; 1 Thes 4:2; 2 Thes 3:6; 1 Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9; 1 John 14:21; 2 John 6)

BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Baptism is a new covenant ordinance of the Lord Jesus, by which a believer is immersed in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is a solemn and beautiful sign that publicly declares our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, as well as our union with Him in death to sin and resurrection to a new life. We believe that Baptism is prerequisite to church membership and to participation in the Lord's Supper. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a new covenant ordinance of Jesus Christ, in which the gathered members of the church regularly eat bread and drink the cup to commemorate together the dying love of Christ until He returns. We believe that those who eat and drink in a worthy manner partake of Christ's body and blood, not physically, but spiritually, and in doing so by faith are nourished with the benefits He obtained through His death. These ordinances belong to the gathered church, marking off believers from unbelievers and making the church visible on earth. (Mt 3:5-6, 26:26-29, 28:19-20; Mk 14:22-25, 16:16; Lk 22:14-20; Jn 3:22-23, 4:12, 6:26; Acts 2:38, 41-42, 8:12, 36-39, 10:47-48, 16:32-34, 18:8, 22:16; Rom 6:4; Gal 3:26-28; Col 2:12; 1 Cor 5:1-8, 11:17-32; 1 Pet 3:20-21)

KINGDOM ALLEGIANCE

We believe all genuine Christians are, by virtue of regeneration, citizens first of Heaven even while we sojourn on earth. We believe it is our privilege and obligation to pursue the advance of God's saving purpose in Jesus by our obedience to the Great Commission, chiefly involving the charitable and enduring evangelization of all peoples, the particular edification of our local church, and the private and public outworking of a Christian worldview according to the whole counsel of God and the grace of His Gospel. We believe that civil government exists by Divine appointment for the benefit and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed. The principle exception to this is in matters opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus, Who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. (Exod 18:23; Deut 16:18; 2 Sam 23:3; Ps 2:1-12, 72:11; Jer 30:21; Dan 3:15-18, 6:7-10; Mt 22:21, 23:10, 28:1-20; Acts 4:18-20, 5:29; Rom 13:1-7, 14:4, 9-13; 1 Tim 2:1-4; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet 2:13; Rev 19:16)

CONCERNING THE WORLD TO COME

We believe that at death, the bodies of all people return to dust, but believers are made perfect in holiness and go immediately to be with the Lord in Heaven while unbelievers enter eternal, conscious torment in Hell. We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His Kingdom. In that Day, we believe that Christ will raise the bodies of all the dead, both the just and the unjust, in the resurrection of the body for the final judgment of all people. This will lead to the public and eternal separation of the wicked to the lake of fire, away from the gracious presence of the Lord, and the eternal happiness of the righteous in the presence of the Lord in the new creation, to the praise of the glory of His grace. (Dan 12:2; Mt 13:37-43, 49, 24:30-31, 35, 25:31-46; 28:20; Mk 9:43-48; Lk 14:14; Jn 4:36, 5:28-29, 6:40, 11:25-26; Acts 1:11, 3:21, 10:42, 17:31, 24:15; Rom 2:2-16, 3:5-6, 6:23; 1 Cor 4:5, 6:9-10, 7:29-31, 15:12-58; 2 Cor 4:18, 5:10-11; Phil 3:19; 1 Thes 4:13-18, 5:1-11; 2 Thes 1:6-12; 2 Tim 1:10; Heb 1:10-12, 6:1-2, 9:28; 1 Pet 4:7; 2 Pet 2:9, 3:3-13; 1 John 2:17, 28, 4:17; Jude 7; Rev 1:7, 20:11-12, 22:11)